

Technical Paper

HIGHWAY SYSTEM SUBCLASSIFICATION

BASED ON SYNTHESIS OF

INTERCITY TRAVEL

To: J. F. McLaughlin, Director

September 12, 1968

Joint Highway Research Project

Project No: C-36-54LL

From: H. L. Michael, Associate Director

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The attached Technical Paper "Highway System Subclassification Based on Synthesis of Intercity Travel" is presented to the Board for approval of publication. The paper has been authored by Messes. V. C. Vodrazka and H. L. Michael of our staff and has been submitted to the Highway Research Board for possible presentation at the 1969 Annual Meeting. If accepted it will be published by the HRB.

The paper is a summary of the techniques used in the classification of Indiana highways according to their importance for intercity travel after the Interstate system of highways is completed. The report on this topic was presented to the Board and accepted by it at an earlier meeting in 1968.

The paper is presented for approval of publication by the Highway Research Board.

Respectfully submitted.

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Harold L. Michael

Associate Director

HLM:mz

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Technical Paper

HIGHWAY SYSTEM SUBCLASSIFICATION BASED ON SANTHESIS OF INTERCITA TRAVEL

BY

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Joint Highway Research Project

Project: C-36-5411

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Purdue University
Lafayette, Indiana
September 12, 1968



Introduction

can present a valid argument for a greater share of the highway dollar in order to adequately meet their respective responsibilities. This usually occurs for two reasons. One is the rising cost of both the materials and manpower required in all phases involved in the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of the highway plant. The other is the fact that even if unit costs for materials and manpower remain constant, overall costs are rising because the steady growth of highway traffic necessitates higher standards of highway design, construction and maintenance on more miles in order to render an acceptable quality of service. Certainly the need is great for an overall increase in the quality of service rendered by the culsting highway mileage.

Because the number of highway dellars is severely limited, emphasis must be given to highway planning to ensure the wise investment of available funds. Moreover, the orderly, efficient, and economical development of a state highway system, or any other arterial system, requires that all segments of it, ranging from the highest type freeways and expressvays to secondary collector roads and streets, be included in the improvement and maintenance programs developed within the framework of the planning process.

Among the first steps involved in the planning process are the classification of the highway network into various systems and the determination of needs (deviations from tolerable or ideal conditions) within each system. The roads within a system, for example, the state highway system, are not alike either in respect to the service provided,

which may range from strictly traffic novement to a signaficant smooth of land access service, or in their design, construction, and maintenance standards. Pollar, manpower, equipment and management requirements also vary within the system.

This suggests, therefore, that proper highway planting should include the subclassification of the highway system into several. Subsystems such that the highways a full stock or beyond for characters of service as well as cladible that will of development.

The purpose of this paper in we describe the continue to indicate the used to subclassify the rural blower Highway System of India a sea to select a subsystem of the more important rural blower to supplement the Interstate system in the movement of large values of high speed traffic. This subsystem of highways was despect, in highers of the anticipated intercity bravel basend, worshy of some American for construction to festign standards equal or comparable to those of the Interstate system.

Study Approach

In the research discursed in moto paper. Tradition professor as they now exist on the State highway system with undoubtedly change as more drivers are able to take advantage of the fast developing Interstate system. The second factor was that highway improvements needed to be concentrated on existing neares. Highway improvement programs are not generally necessary to obtain more imployable but to cluain improved and nore adequate highways (8).

Because of the second factor, the Indians state highway system as it existed in 1966 was used as the base for the analysis with one very significant alteration. This was the assumption that the entire Interstate system was complete and fully operational. Thus, the analysis of traffic patterns reflected changes resulting from notorists utilization of a completed Interstate system. It is important to recognize that any recommendations regarding system designation rais as a result of this study are predicated on the completion of the presently proposed Interstate system.

The objective of the study was to profine to allie patterns in Indiana as they would exist today, if the completed interstate existed today, and then to project these truffic posterns to future years.

A statewide study of intercity travel feature was selected as the method to provide a synthesis of travitic parterns on the State highway system. This was done for several reasons. The state highway system primarily serves intercity travel of a ron-local nature. While the existence of other major traffic generators such as universities, parks, and military bases was recognized, it was felt that their effect would be masked on roads with a high concentration of intercity travel and, therefore, be of most significance on roads with a low concentration of intercity travel. Roads thus likely affected could then best be handled as special cases in the process of subclassification.

Another reason for selecting the intercity travel desire method
was the hope that the use of this method would result in the assignment
of a numerical factor to each highway section in the State, the magnitude
of which would be a measure of both the relative importance and anticipated



traffic volume of each highway section. It was further envisioned that some function of the importance of a highway section and its overall condition as measured by a sufficiency pring could be used to establish a set of relative priorities for research action and assurements.

The only variables in the selected autercity there desire model were city population, and the distances between each city pair. These items of data are readily available and may be uptited on a regular basis. Thus, the analysis may be repeated on a contlaining basis and highway system daviguations modified to perheat shorters in population and in the highway system itself.

Intercity Travel Desire Factors

The intercity travel desire factor (ITDF) model used in this study is based on the gravity concept of huran interaction. A basic postulate of this concept is that the interaction between cities waries directly with some function of the populations of the two cities and inversely with some function of the distance between them. This may be expressed as:

The functional form used was the product of the square roots of the populations of a city pair divided by the square of the minimum path distance between the two cities. This was the same form used with some success in studies carried out in Washington (4) and New Mexico (5).

The first step in the analysis was the coding of the highway network and the location of all cities. A highway system can readily be visualized as a network consisting of a set of nodes representing highway intersections and a set of links representing the portion of



a highway connecting two nodes or two intersections. By properly numbering the nodes and generating a table containing all the links and their lengths, a complete numerical description of a highway system can be made available for computer operations.

Through the use of an appropriate algorithm it is then possible to determine the minimum path distance between any two cities located mywhere in the network as well as the moute employed in achieving this minimum path distance. The highway network as used in this study was quite large, consisting of approximately 1,500 nales and cuties and about 6,340 links. In fact, the network was so large that a Tree Type Decomposition Algorithm for Minimum Foths in Large Networks had to be developed in order to solve the protler on the available computer (1).

The delimited area in which a fine degree of network detail was required is illustrated in Figure 1. With the exception of some short access routes to public installations, all states within Indiana were coded. Also coded were the rejer review of adjacent states within 100 miles of Indiana. Beyond this point, only interstate routes were considered.

The ten nodes shown at or near the periphery of the delimited area of Figure 1 indicate Interstate highway intersections through which intercity travel, with at least one city located outside the colimited area, must pass if any Indiana highways are included in the minimum path. The "Key" of Figure 1 serves to point out the six decomposed networks used in the minimum path algorithm.

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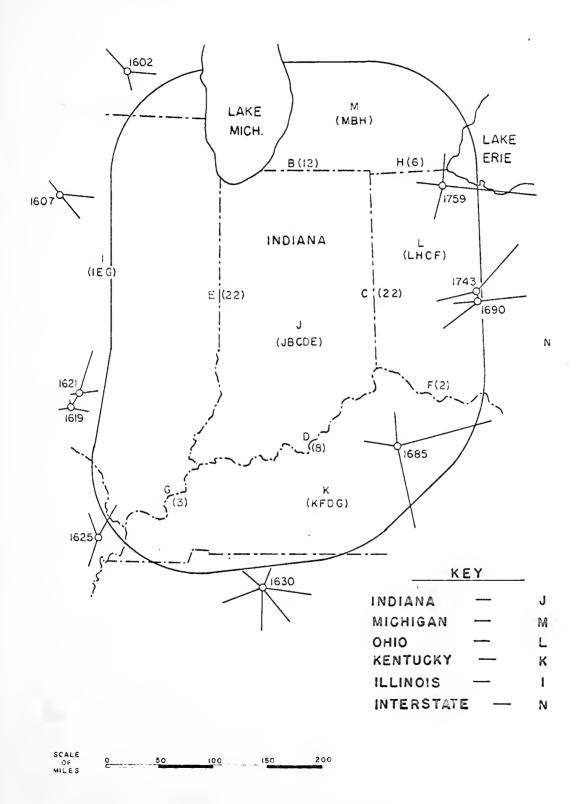


FIGURE I. DELIMITED AREA OF THE PARTITIONED NETWORKS.



The next step in the procedure was the determination of the minimum path distance and route between all city prims. The ITDF was then collected for a city rate of this value assigned to each link of the minimum path. A surplicative total of the decide for each links of the left of the leach of the 1,809 links contain that the Ladians alghe y rate of the

This step was naturally and a not in three phases with the constant of TEDF link assignment of a particular for even phase. The particle of Colored Lough with the boar office one than 100 miles of miles out (mineral TE) and chay point with out least one chay we can loo miles of Indians out maintain within Indians. However, or produce TEDF freedom sale hand in these IN these confidence in the first analysis because easily suslighed should finit the indianactif the factors for phases I am INI were well a puritherably further at factors.

The link lengths as used in the network description were not true distance not are but were according time measures in times. The length of an Interchase link in ribs was numerically equal to the travel time in minutes because it also as timed that Interptat nightness could be negotiated as a special of the MPE. All other highway link. Lengths were multiplied by a could not order time to be 50 TM and a motio of 1.2 was used to make the convention. The speeds estimated for two-lane runal, four-lane urbay and to chane urbay highways were respectively 45, 30, and 15 MH with resides of 1.33, 2.0, and 4.0. This allowed for some discrimination in the selection of already existing, higher-type facilities within the mechanics of the minimum path alrowithm.

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A total of 451 cities and towns in Indiana, each with a population of 100 or more, were coded as centroids and limited to appropriate highway nodes. Within the delimited pure outside of Indiana (I) cities of over 1,000 population were coded while another 1,639 man of over 5,000 population located oriside the delimited area also were coded. In all cases where cities were matrix five miles of each other, their populations were summed and impated as one city in subrequent calculations.

The calculation of all intercept to all desire a stant was to be the following restauctions:

- A. Tities of leas than 1,000 population and inversetions only with diview within 150 miles of their location.
- 2. Cities with a population by wreet 1,000 and 5,000 and duturactions only with cattles within 300 miles of their location
- 3. Only cities with greater than 5,000 populars in hai interactions with cities located cubries of the deliminal area.
- 4. The population of the large of a pair of arties was limited to a maximum value of ten cause the paperation of the scaller city.

These restrictions were armosed in an attempt to overcome some objections to a gravity model approach to a well, synthesis, the grancipal objection being that use of that approach desplies a variablly unlimited trip generation capability of such centroid. The distance limitation controlled the sphere of influence of the smaller cities while the factor of ten limitation on population prevented the calculation of unrealistic trip potentials when a small city interacted with rather large ones. The basis for the numerical values of the imposed limitations was that they appeared reasonable.

Analysis of Intercity Travel Desire Factors

A centroid and a link analysis of the computed desire factors was performed to demonstrate the adequacy of the assumed ITIF model to synthesize travel and to establish a relationship between link factors and link volumes.

Centroid Analysis

It has previously been stated that the completion of the Interstate highway system and its subsequent utilization by traffic will result in charges in the traffic patterns now existing on the State highway system. Because of the fact that the Interstate system was assumed to be completed in the performance of this study, the factors should reflect travely patterns not as they currently exist but as they would exist if the Interstate system were complete. For this reason, it was decided that the establishment of a relationship between link volumes, as they currently exist, and link factors for all highway links would not provide an adequate means of demonstrations the adequacy of the ITDF model to synthesize travel.

However, it was reasoned that eventthough the traffic patterns would be different, the relative magnitude of traffic attracted by individual centroids would not greatly be affected by assuming a completed Interstate system. This implies that the traffic attracted to a centroid should be essentially the same with a completed Interstate system but that it may enter the centroid today on different links. It was, of course, recognized that the amount of traffic which currently passes thru a city might be significantly altered if the Interstate system were complete.

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The impact of this latter effect on the total traffic entering or leaving a city, hhowever, decreases as city size increases as shown in Table 1 from Matson, Smith, and Hurd (9). Table 1 gives the per cent of traffic entering a city which may be bypassed (traffic not desiring to stop in the city) around the city as a function of city size. The percentage of bypassable traffic for cities from 10,000 to 300,000 population is relatively uniform appearing to average about 20 per cent. Because of the high proportion of traffic having a terminus in these cities, it appeared reasonable to expect that a significant relationship should exist between the sum of the computed factors and the sum of the traffic volumes for the links entering such cities even if significant changes in thru traffic would occur with a completed Interstate system, provided that the ITDF model was adequate. In other words, a high percentage of the variability of traffic volume should be explained by a regression of the sum of the traffic volumes for the links serving the centroid on the Phase II centrold factor.

The Phase II centroid attraction factor was available because of the way the highway network was coded. The sum of the Phase II desire factors associated with all the links entering a city could be separated into a centroid attraction factor and a thru factor. The centroid attraction factor was that portion of the total desire factor calculated when the city served as an origin or destination for interaction with other cities. This distinction could not be made for individual links but only for the sum of all links of a centroid.

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2,500 = 10,00.	
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25,00 0 - 50,000	25 (7)
50, 000 - 100,00	6.2
100,000 - 300 0	
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500,000 - 1.0 . 0 .	1.2



The dependent variable Y was taken as the sum of the Annual Average

Paily Traffic (AADT) estimates on all highways entering a city as measured

just beyond the city limits. This data was collected from the 1962

Traffic Map as furnished by the Indiana State Highway Commission.

Traffic volumes for 1962 were used because they were the most contemporary

available for the entire state in conjunction with the 1960 population

figures used in calculating the desire factors. The independent

variables were various measures of the computed travel desire factors

associated with the links entering each centroid.

Data for a total of 390 Indiana centroids were coded for use in this analysis. These data sets were divided into three centroid population groups. The first group consisted of 69 centroids, each with a population of over 5000; the second of 167 centroids, each with a population between 1000 and 5000; and the third of 154 centroids, each with a population between 100 and 1000. A regression analysis was performed on each of these three data sets as well as on the total of 390 data sets.

The division of data sets by population was performed to test the reasoning that the adequacy of the ITDF model would decrease as population decreased, as measured by the per cent of variability of the dependent variable explained by the independent variables. The per cent of variability explained is commonly referred to as the coefficient of determination or the square of the correlation coefficient (R²) in regression analysis.

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It was also expected that an increase in R² would occur when the thru factors associated with the links serving a centroid were included in the analysis. However, it was also recognized that a serious problem concerning the effects of local traffic existed for the smaller cities in addition to the thru traffic effects. The situation as it generally exists for small cities is that traffic volumes on roads entering the city are correspondingly small. A good deal of this traffic may be bound for the city but be local in character. The amount of local traffic is a function of the population density in the surrounding area and the degree of agricultural and other economic development. These factors have wide variation throughout the State so that a similar variation should be expected in the amount of local traffic as well.

It may be argued that a good deal of the traffic on roads entering a large city may be bound for the city but be local in character as well. However, a larger city has many county roads and other highways entering it which are not part of the State highway system but which carry large amounts of local traffic. A small city has few of these other roads and much local traffic must use a State highway to reach the city. This suggests that a larger proportion of the local traffic enters a large city on local roads than is the case for a small city. Accordingly, more of the traffic on State highways entering large cities is of the type that the intercity travel desire factors measure than is the case for State highways entering a small city.

Each of these effects serve to force a decrease in R² as city size decreases because the amount of thru and local traffic assumes a much greater significance with respect to the total traffic entering the city than does the intercity traffic attracted by the city. This would be expected to occur even if the ITDF model perfectly explained intercity travel desire.



The results of the regression analyses performed on the centroid data are given in Table 2. The values of R² are shown to mange from 0.829 to 0.218 to 0.116 for large, medium, and small city sizes respectively when the centroid attraction factor is the only independent variable. However, the values of R² are increased to 0.873, 0.428, and 0.291 respectively when the thru factor measure (of Phase II) also serves as an independent variable. These results are in agreement with the discussion given above.

The values of R^2 for the data taken as a whole range from 0.816 when the centroid attraction factor as the only independent variable to 0.866 when the thru factor measure is also included.

Based on these results, it appears reasonable to conclude that the assumed ITDF model is an adequate measure of intercity travel desire.

A perplexing aspect of the models developed in this analysis, however, is the negative sign of some of the coefficients for the Phase I and Phase III thru factors, i.e., K_3 and K_4 . (See Table 2). The implication is that traffic decreases as the thru factors associated with a centroid increase. This makes no sense at all.

An explanation for this occurrence is an extension of the thru traffic effect as described previously. Thru traffic makes up a relatively small proportion of the external traffic entering a city and it may be assumed that the type of thru traffic measured by the Fhase I and Fhase III factors constitutes a very small proportion of the thru traffic. Thus, other traffic variations such as local traffic probably overwhelm any variability in traffic volume that may be explained by the Fhase I and Fhase III factors. This was borne out by examination of the standard errors which revealed that many of the coefficients of X, and X, are not significantly different from zero.



Table 2. Regression Models Developed in the Centroid Analysis.

Dependent Variable	Parameter	A common of the		K M	A STATE OF THE STA	ica ica
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	COCHE	300		10.36	1360	0.50
	Std. Err.	64.7	0,43	0,05	08.0	

 x_1^- = pum of Fhase II thru factors

 $\Delta \tilde{h} \sim \text{Dom On Flasse LLI Gliru factors}$

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The high value of some of the Fhase I and Phase III factors led to the conclusion that they were overestimated relative to Phase II factors. In other words, the ITDF model yielded too high an intercity travel desire for the very long interactions characteristic of Phase I and Phase III. Many of these long trips are either not made at all or are made by another mode such as plane or train. Thus, for long distance trips of say 300 to 400 miles or more, the exponent of distance in the ITDF model should be some value greater than two.

Link Analysis

A link analysis was performed to develop a relationship between link volumes and link factors. A regression analysis of the minimum AADT associated with a link on the Phase II link factor was performed to develop this relationship.

The minimum AADT on a link (the lowest AADT of a section of the link) was used as the dependent variable because the minimum value would more closely reflect intercity travel. In an idealized relationship, it can be observed that local traffic will increase as a centroid or route intersection is approached but intercity traffic will remain constant. Thus, the minimum traffic volume more closely represents what the ITDF model measures.

The link data used in this analysis were selected to meet one of two criteria: the link was located in an area remote from an Interstate highway or the link was located near a portion of the Interstate system completed prior to 1962. These criteria were imposed in an attempt to insure that travel patterns for 1962 in the areas of the selected links would not be significantly affected by completion of the entire Interstate System.

After the link data had been collected and plotted on a scatter diagram, it was decided to eliminate those data sets having a Phase II link factor of less than 50 and to try a functional relationship of the form:

where Y is the minimum link AADT and Y is the Phase II link factor.

A total of 126 data sets were used in this analysis. The regression model developed was:

$$Y = -8977 + 5523 \log_{10}(X)$$

which had an R² of 0.919. A plot of this equation is shown in Figure 2.

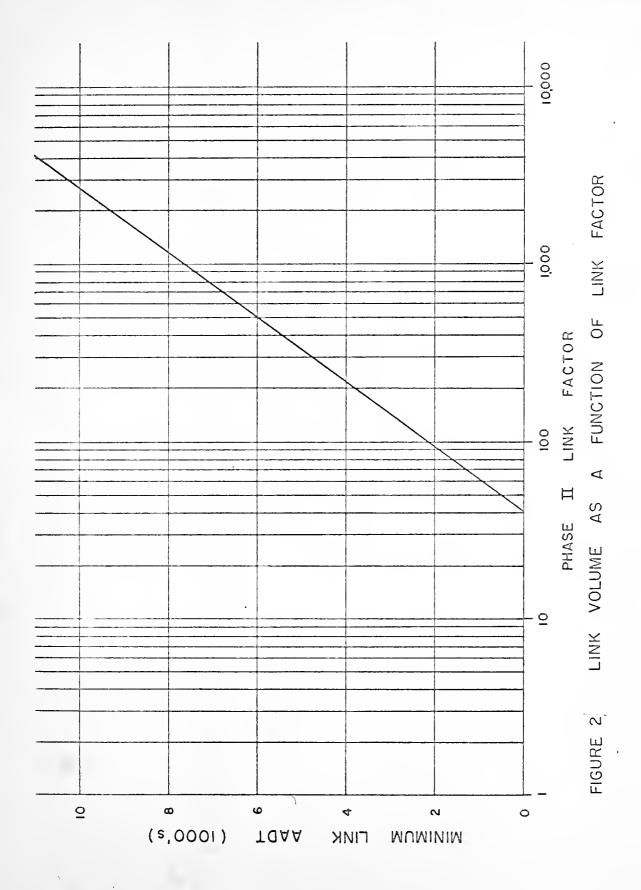
The variance of the estimate, s, of a predicted Y for a given X is estimated by:

For X equal to the mean, the variance of the estimate is given by:

and the standard error of the estimate, s, equals 745.5.

The standard error of the slope was 147.3 so that the 95 percent confidence interval extended from 5,234 to 5,832.

Based on this analysis, it was decided that the regression model was an adequate means of predicting the traffic volume associated with the Phase II link factor. Furthermore, these results reinforce the conclusion that the ITDF model used is adequate for the synthesis of travel demand.



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Application of Results

It was suggested after study of the requirements for various classes of the State Highway System of Indiana that it be subclassified into four designated systems. These four subsystems are:

- 1. Principal State Highway System. This system should be composed of the presently designated Interstate highway system and those highways which, on the basis of their Phase II Intercity Travel Desire Factor and other planning criteria should be reconstructed to freeway standards by 1982. The design year was selected as 1982 because the AAIT-link factor relationship was based on 1962 volume data thus providing a 20-year planning interval. A Phase II link factor of 1880 or greater was found for such highways.
- 2. Primary State Highway System. This system should be composed of the additional highways required to provide for the interconnection with the Principal State Highway System of all Indiana cities over 5000 population and other roads with moderately heavy intercity travel. A Phase II link factor of at least 125 was found for these roads.
- 3. Secondary State Highway System. This system should be composed of the additional highways required to provide for the interconnection with the previously designated subsystems of all still unconnected county seats and other roads with light but significant intercity travel. A Fhase II link factor of at least 50 was found to be an adequate measure of the latter.
- 4. Collector State Highway System. This system should include the remainder of the present State Highway System of Indiana not already in a previously designated subsystem.



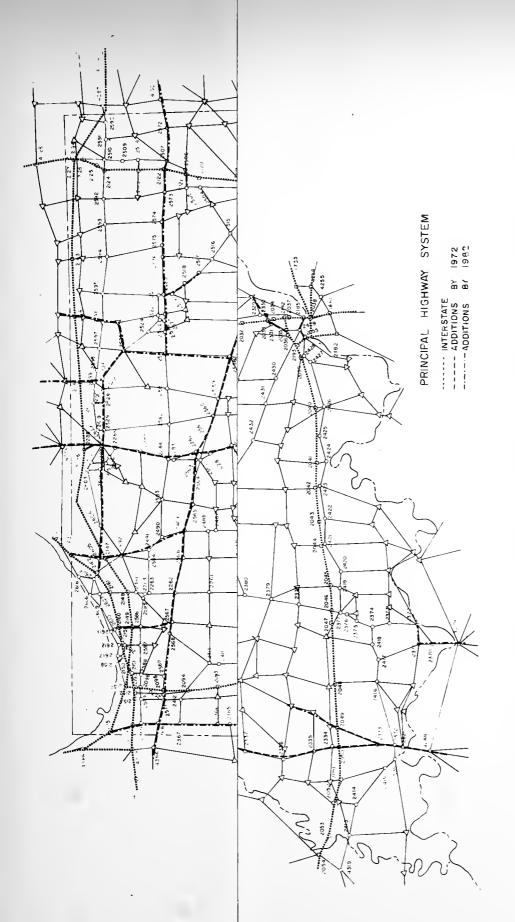
The proposed Principal State Highway System for 1972 and 1982 is shown in Figure 3. The routes proposed as supplementary to the Interstate system are shown in two groups. The first consists of freeways deemed necessary by 1972 and the second, freeways deemed necessary by 1982.

In general, when the AADT of a two-lane, two-way highway is between 7,000 to 8,000 vehicles per day, serious consideration should be given to making it a multilane facility with the degree of access control determined by individual study. If the design hour volume (DHV) is taken at about 15 per cent of the AADT, its magnitude is 1,050 to 1,200 vehicles per hour for AADT's of 7,000 to 8,000 respectively. According to the "Highway Capacity Manual" (10), the service volume for level of service C for such a highway approaches 1400 passenger cars per hour under ideal conditions while the service volume for level of service B approaches 900 passenger cars per hour under ideal conditions. These are the two levels of service usually associated with the design of rural highways.

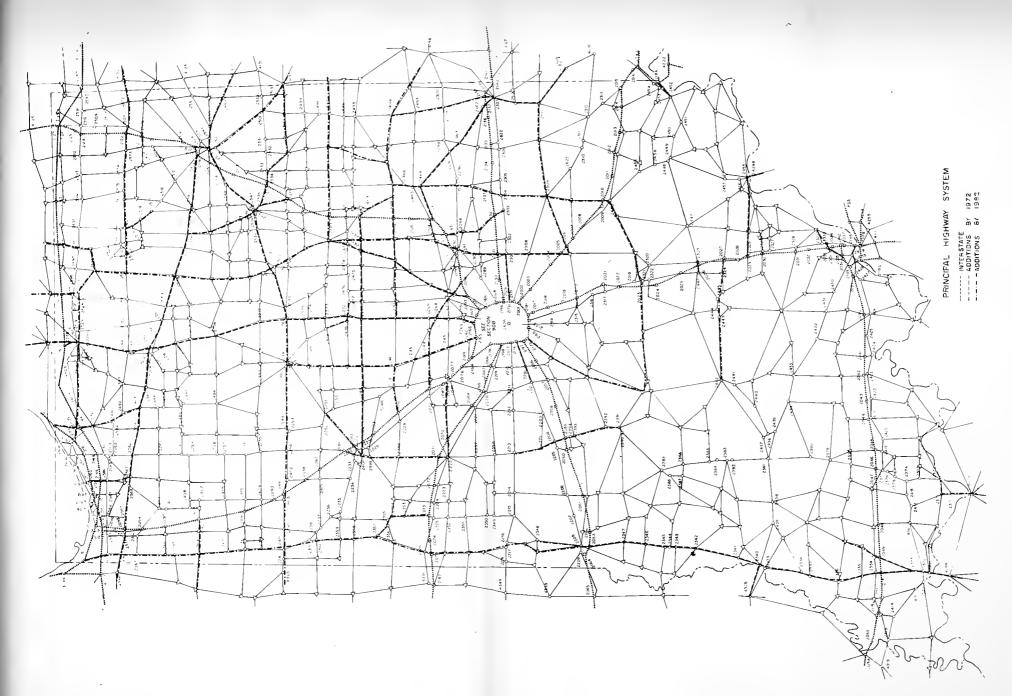
The service volume at level of service C for a two-lane highway with adequate lane and shoulder width, no passing sight distance or alinement restrictions, and only 10 per cent trucks is about 1,200 vehicles per hour. Thus, demand volumes of 1,200 vehicles per hour virtually dictate multilane design for future increases in volumes even if ideal conditions can be designed into a two-lane highway and if a desirable level of service is to be attained.

The selection of the Phase II link factor limits used to select this subsystem of highways was based on a projected volume of 7500 vehicles per day assuming an annual average growth rate of four per cent. Highways in Indiana which will be carrying this volume of traffic

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AND PROPOSED PRINCIPAL STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM OF INDIANA - 1972 1982 PROJECTIONS FIGURE 3.



AND - 1972 INDIANA OF SYSTEM HIGHWAY STATE PROPOSED PRINCIPAL PROJECTIONS 1985 FIGURE 3.



by 1972 are those which had a link factor of 350 or more as calculated in this study. Those which had a link factor of 180 to 350 wild require multilane design between 1972 and 1982.

The four subsystems of the State Highway System of Indiana as suggested by this research for 1972 are shown in Figure 4.

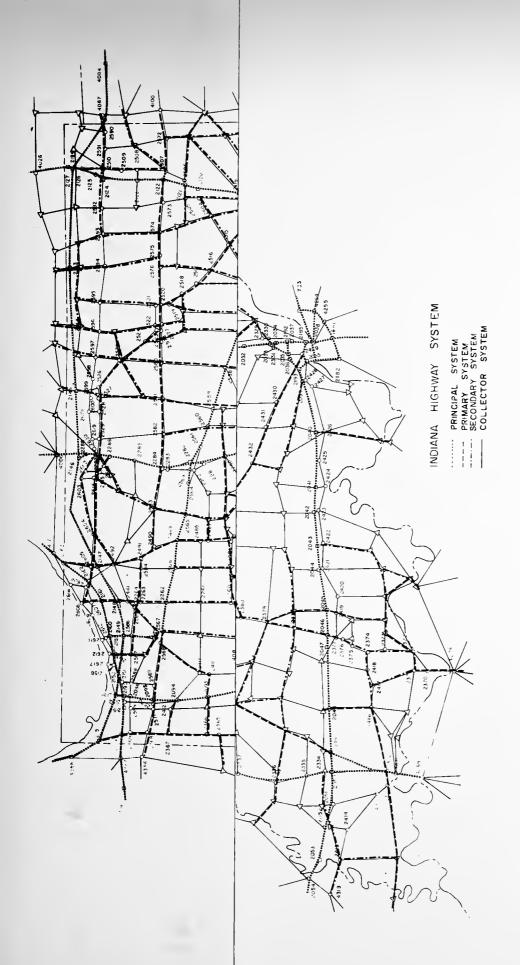
The Primary State Highway System includes those highways with link factors between 125 and 350. The lower value is representative of a 1962 traffic volume of about 2,500 vehicles per day so that, with a four per cant amount growth rate, the 1972 volume would be about 4,000 vehicles per day.

This projected volume of 4,000 was used because it represents the point at which high standards for two-lane rural bigoway design are often recommended by state highway departments. This proposed system for 1972 also includes these highways with link factors between 180 and 350 which are suggested for transfer to the Princips? System between 1972 and 1982.

The Primary System was also selected to ensure the totalconnectivity of cities over 5,000 with the Principal System. Similar
nearby cities in adjacent states as well as the rajor routes of
adjacent states were also considered.

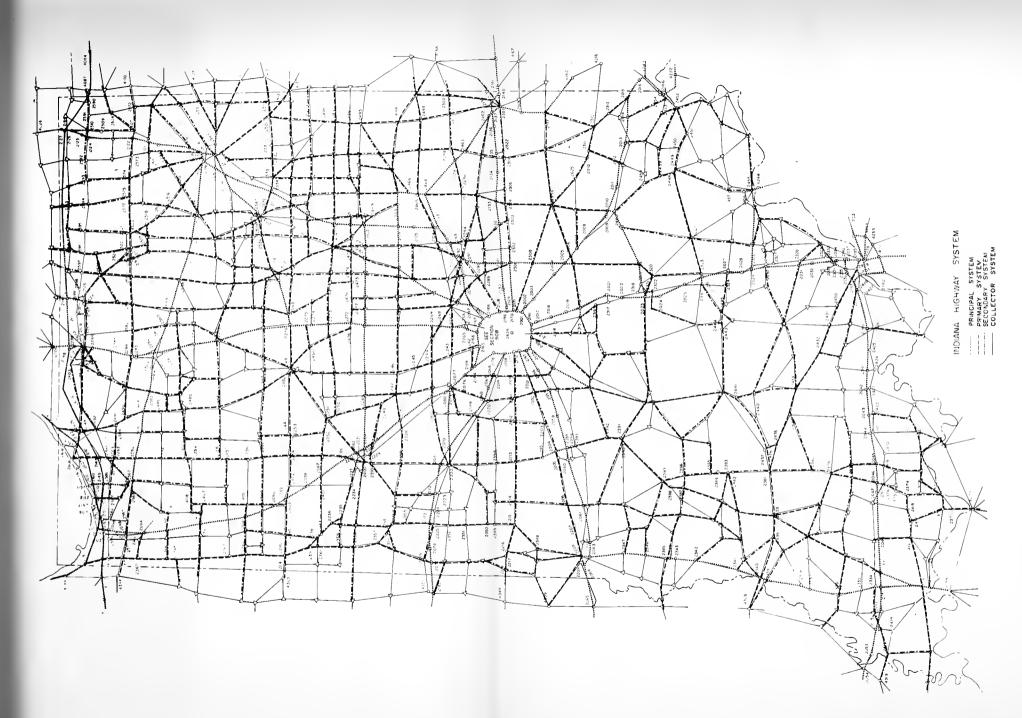
The Secondary State Highway System was selected to provide for the interconnection of all county seats and also to provide a general coverage of all axeas of Indiana. A minimum link factor of 50 was used because its use appeared to provide good overall service to most areas of the State and included most righways with a 1972 volume of approximately 1,000 vehicles per day or more. Most of the small Indiana cities would be served by this system.



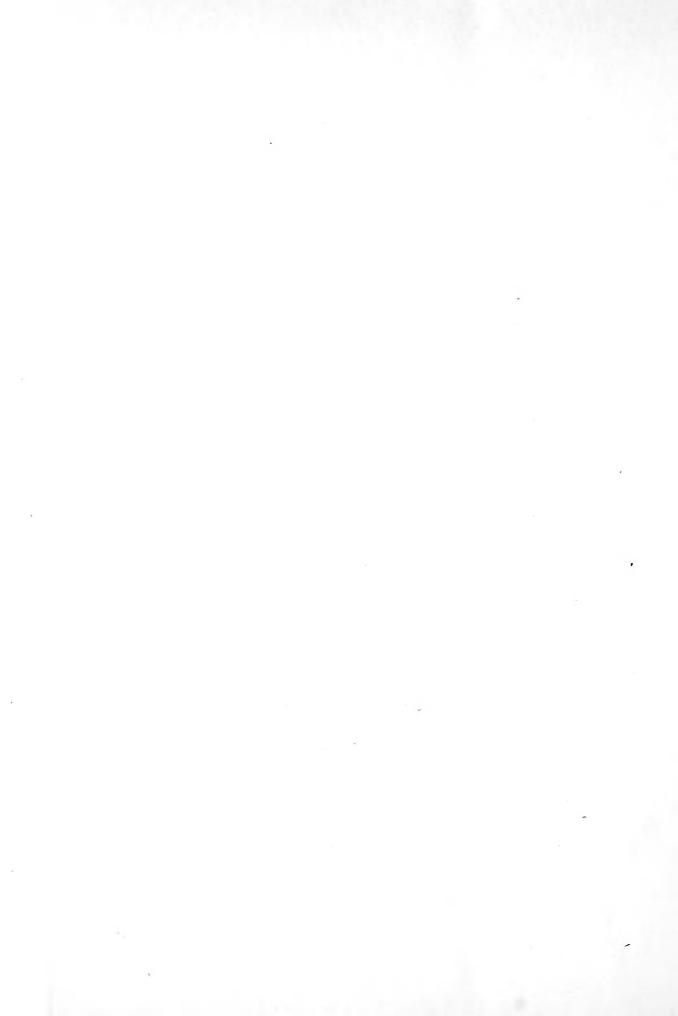


SYSTEM HIGHWAY STATE PROPOSED SUBCLASSIFICATION OF THE OF INDIANA - 1972 PROJECTIONS FIGURE 4.

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SYSTEM HIGHWAY STATE THE PROJECTIONS SUBCLASSIFICATION OF 1972 1 INDIANA PROPOSED P. FIGURE 4.



With regard to the selection of each of the four subsystems, it is important to note that the factor limits of each subsystem were not strictly adhered to in all cases. Each subsystem was selected so that it was integrated with previously designated subsystems and so that there were no isolated sections unconnected to either an equal or higher system.

Thus, some flexibility in selecting the subsystems was necessary to achieve an integrated, interconnected highway system serving all areas of the State.

The remaining highways in the current state highway system, after selection of the three subsystems discussed above, include some highway sections which should be considered for deletion from the State highway system. Their low, in some cases zero, link factor indicates that the service they provide is local in character and that the counties, rather than the state, should be responsible for them. All the currently remaining state highways, however, are shown in Figure 4 as belonging in the Collector System.

Conclusion

It is suggested that the validity of the procedure described in this paper has been demonstrated. However, the need certainly exists for refinements and additional model development. Further study of the following points is recommended:

- 1. Determination of the effect of distance between cities on intercity travel.
- 2. Evaluation of other intercity traffic desire models and a determination of practical restrictions on the use of these models.

- 3. The development of models to explain the amount of locally generated traffic entering urban areas and that which exists on rural highways.
- 4. The determination of the optimal number of State highway subsystems and the development of methods for the proper allocation of available funds to each subsystem.
- 5. The determination of necessary additions to the Indiana State highway subsystems to accommodate such special purposes as service to major airports, institutions, recreational areas, and other heavy traffic generators.

Serious consideration should be given to recalculating the desire factors in 1970 when new population figures and traffic volume data will be available. Nothing is more important in the field of planning than the continuing reevaluation of plans as more up-to-date information becomes available on the ever-changing conditions of a viable society.

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